

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 215223

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: SAFETY OF IMPERIAL FAMILY AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

REFS: A) ADDIS 10739; B) ADDIS ABABA 10843; C) STATE
209447

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE AND CONCUR IN YOUR APPROACHES REPORTED REFS A AND B.
2. IN VIEW PROLIFERATING REPORTS OF MOVEMENT ROYAL FAMILY TO AKAKI PRISON AND PMG INTENTIONS TO CONDUCT EXECUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH NATIONAL REVOLUTION DAY, WE ARE CALLING IN ETHIOPIAN CHARGE MEKBIB TODAY, SEPTEMBER 10, TO MAKE KNOWN OUR CONCERN HERE.

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3. IN ADDITION WE ARE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER

INITIATIVES ON WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS. WE ARE ESPECIALLY DESIROUS OF KNOWING WHETHER OTHER AFRICAN STATES ARE AWARE OF CURRENT REPORTS AND, IF SO, WHETHER THEY HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT THEM OR HAVE ANY PLANS FOR COLLECTIVE OR INDIVIDUAL APPROACHES TO EPMG ON SUBJECT. AFRICAN DEMARCHE APPROXIMATELY YEAR AGO WHEN THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT EMPEROR MIGHT BE EXECUTED WAS MOST HELPFUL. IF NOTHING CONTEMPLATED, DOES EMBASSY THINK IT WOULD

BE USEFUL TO TAKE INITIATIVE OURSELVES OR TO ATTEMPT TO GET UK OR PERHAPS COMBINED EEC EMBASSIES TO APPROACH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN ADDIS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO EPMG? WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT, BUT IF EXECUTIONS WERE TO HAPPEN, PUBLIC REACTION IN U.S. WOULD OF COURSE BE STRONG AND CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SEVERE.

4. ADDITIONALLY, WHAT ARE EMBASSY VIEWS RE APPROACHES BY INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS? WHICH ONES WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE AND HOW COULD THEY BEST BE ENCOURAGED? FYI: WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED PRIVATELY BY INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN ETHIOPIA AND MIGHT SEND MESSAGES TO PMG: INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE RIGHTS OF MAN, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS .END FYI.

5. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS. KISSINGER

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